

CLAIMS

What is claimed to be new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An apparatus for allowing a user to exercise and for providing input control signals to a video game, comprising:
 - a) a base having a front anterior and a rear posterior end, a top and a bottom, and a pair of sides, wherein the user can stand or sit on said top;
 - b) a vertical member being disposed on said top of said rear end of said base, said vertical member having first and second ends wherein said first end is adapted for mounting onto said base, wherein said vertical member is resistively flexible in the transverse axis, wherein said vertical member is resistively flexible in the anterior-posterior axis, wherein said vertical member is resistively flexible about the longitudinal axis;
 - c) a pair of arms being disposed on said second end of said vertical member, wherein said arms each have an end, wherein said ends extend toward said front of said base, wherein said arms form a cradle about the user disposed on said base so that the back of the user is oriented toward said vertical member and the front of the user is oriented toward said ends of said arms;

d) a hand grip being disposed on each of said ends of said arms so that the hands of the user can grasp each said hand grip; and,

e) a first sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to movement of said vertical member by the user to permit input signals to be provided to the video game.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising at least one control button being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said control button, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said control button by the user.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising at least one control switch being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said control switch, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said control switch by the user.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, further comprising at least one control throttle being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said control throttle, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said control throttle by the user.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, further comprising at least one 360 degree

control button being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said 360 degree control button, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said 360 degree control button by the user.

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, further comprising at least one trigger being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said trigger, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said trigger by the user.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, further comprising at least one wheel being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said wheel, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said wheel the user.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising at least one 2/3 position switch being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said 2/3 position switch, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said 2/3 position switch by the user.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8, further comprising at least one toggle being disposed on said hand grip so that the user can manipulate said control toggle, and a second sensor for sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of said

toggle by the user.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said vertical member provides resistance to a user as the vertical member is flexed by the user.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said first sensor senses movement of said vertical member in said transverse axis.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein said first sensor senses movement of said vertical member in said anterior-posterior axis.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said first sensor senses movement of said vertical member in said longitudinal axis.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a feedback mechanism for transmitting a signal from the video game to said vertical member in response to signals received from said first and second sensors wherein said vertical member transmits a force to a user.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising a feedback mechanism for transmitting a signal from the video game to said hand grip in response to signals received from said first and second sensors wherein said hand grip transmits a force to a user.

16. A method for allowing a user to exercise and for providing input control signals to a video game, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a base having a front anterior and a rear posterior end, a top and a bottom, and a pair of sides, wherein the user can stand or sit on said top;
- b) attaching a first end of a vertical member onto the top of the rear end of the base, the vertical member being resistively flexible in the transverse axis, the anterior-posterior axis, and about the longitudinal axis;
- c) attaching a pair of arms onto the second end of the vertical member, wherein the arms each have an end, wherein the ends of the arms extend toward the front of the base so as to form a cradle about the user disposed on the base so that the back of the user is oriented toward the vertical member and the front of the user is oriented toward the ends of the arms;
- d) attaching a hand grip onto each end of the arm so that the hands of the user can grasp each hand grip; and,
- e) sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to movement of the vertical member by the user to permit input signals to be provided to the video game.

17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising the step of mounting at least one input device onto the hand grip so that the user can manipulate the input device, and sensing and transmitting signals to the video game in response to manipulation of the input device by the

user.

18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of providing a feedback signal from the video game to the vertical member in response to the input signals wherein the vertical member then transmits a force to the user.

19. The method of Claim 18, further comprising the step of providing a feedback signal from the video game to the hand grip in response to the input signals wherein the hand grip then transmits a force to the user.